

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 /091 W

----- 002006

R 081625Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9318

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 7040

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: GATT, ETRD, MX

SUBJECT: MEXICAN IMPORT REGIME

REF MEXICO 7027

1. HERNANDEZ (DIRECTOR GENERAL ECONOMIC STUDIES, TREASURY) AND GARRIDO (GOM REP TO MTN) TOLD AMBASSADOR DENT AND EMBASSY OFFICERS JULY 31 THAT GOM PROPOSES SHIFT BY END OF AUGUST TO 5 PERCENT SURCHARGE SYSTEM IN PLACE OF NEWLY-IMPOSED ADDITIONAL IMPORT LICENSE REQUIREMENTS (MEXICO 6258). THERE IS SOME NERVOUSNESS, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH A MOVE MIGHT BE INTERPRETED AS A DISGUISED DEVALUATION, PARTICULARLY NEAR SEPTEMBER 1 DATE. (PRESIDENT'S INFORME LAST SEPT 1 WAS PRECEDED BY MASSIVE CONVERSIONS OUT OF PESOS.)

2. COMMENT: EMBASSY CAN ONLY SPECULATE ON REASONS BEHIND SURCHARGE PROPOSAL. THOUGH BROUGHT UP IN CONTEXT OF DISCUSSION OF OVERALL AND LONG-TERM CHANGE-OVER FROM QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS TO IMPORT DUTIES (REFTEL), SURCHARGE WOULD PRESUMABLY APPLY ONLY TO ITEMS FOR WHICH IMPORT LICENSES WERE NOT REQUIRED PRIOR TO JULY 14. OUR BEST GUESS IS THAT GOM IS HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS
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ABOUT ADVERSE EFFECT OF DELAYS CAUSED BY LICENSING

REQUIREMENT ON IMPORTS OF ESSENTIAL INDUSTRIAL
SUPPLIES, AND THAT COMBINED WITH DISCLOSURES OF
CORRUPTION IN LICENSING BUREAUS, IS LOOKING FOR FACE-
SAVING ALTERNATIVE. THE SURCHARGE WOULD ALSO PROVIDE
GOM WITH SOME NEEDED REVENUE.
BRANDIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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